

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER BLANCO'S UN SPEECH

1. SUMMARY: FONMIN BLANCO'S SPEECH TO THE UNGA SEPTEMBER 24 PROVIDED A GOOD SUMMARY OF URUGUAY'S CURRENT FOREIGN POLICY. WHILE THERE WERE SOME DIFFERENCES IN EMPHASIS AND ATTITUDES, THE OVERALL POLICY STATEMENT OFFERED STRONG SUPPORT TO MANY US FOREIGN POLICY POSITIONS, PARTICULARLY IN THE ECONOMIC AREA. END SUMMARY

2. AS BLANCO STATED EARLY IN HIS ADDRESS, "THERE IS NO CHANGE IN THE TRADITIONAL POLICY LINE OF MY COUNTRY." PICKING UP THE THREAD OF U.S. STATEMENTS MADE OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS, BLANCO EMPHASIZED URUGUAYAN OPPOSITION TO THE USE OF THE UN AS A PROPAGANDA FORUM AND AS AN ARENA FOR IDEOLOGICAL DOMINATION BY ANY BLOC, A CLEAR REFERENCE NOT ONLY TO THE THIRD WORLD BUT ALSO TO THE COMMUNISTS WHO ARE SEEN BY THE GOU AS WORKING HAND IN GLOVE.

3. BLANCO DESCRIBED DETENTE AS THE MOST OUTSTANDING FACT IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS AND URGED THAT ALL NATIONS GIVE ITS OBJECTIVES THEIR UNQUALIFIED SUPPORT. HOWEVER, THE MINISTER, STATING PUBLICLY WHAT WE HAVE BEEN TOLD PRIVATELY BY GOU OFFICIALS, WENT ON TO SAY
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THAT DETENTE HAD A LIMITED REACH, LARGELY CIRCUMSCRIBED TO RELATIONS

BETWEEN THE MAJOR POWERS. REFLECTING URUGUAY'S PREVIOUS BITTER EXPERIENCE WITH URBAN TERRORISTS AND ITS PRESENT CONCERNS, THE MINISTER DWELLED AT LENGTH ON THE SUBJECT OF THE WORLD STRUGGLE FOR POWER AND THE CONFLICT OF IDEOLOGIES WHICH CONTINUE IN SPITE OF DETENTE. BLANCO WARNED THAT THE SMALL AND MEDIUM NATION HAD TO BE "ON GUARD PERMANENTLY TO DEFEND THEIR LIBERTY WHICH IS THREATENED BY A WAR WHICH DETENTE DOES NOT PREVENT." HIS RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO HOW TO DEAL WITH THIS THREAT ALSO PARALLELED THE THRUST OF U.S. POLICY. HE CALLED FIRST FOR RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW AND THEN, IN AN OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO THE LEFT WHICH FIRST RAISED THE ISSUE OF RESPECT FOR IDEOLOGICAL PLURALISM, SAID POINTEDLY THAT THE PLURALITY OF POLITICAL AND IDEOLOGICAL SOLUTION MUST BE RESPECTED BY ALL. "NONE SHOULD INFILTRATE, SUBVERT, ATTACK OR TRY TO EXERCISE DOMINION OVER THE OTHERS."

4. ON THE ECONOMIC SIDE, BLANCO SUMMARIZED HIS SPEECH IN EIGHT POINTS. HE CALLED FOR:

A) THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EXPORT STABILIZATION FUND FOR THE LDC'S, IN TERMS VERY SIMILAR TO THOSE USED BY SECRETARY KISSINGER.

B) A FOOD RESERVE SYSTEM TO ASSURE "ECONOMIC" CONDITIONS FOR PRODUCERS AND ACCESS FOR THE NEEDY.

C) PRODUCER/CONSUMER AGREEMENTS FOR "EACH ONE OF THE BASIC PRODUCTS OF SUBSTANTIAL INTEREST FOR ONE OR MORE PRODUCING COUNTRIES." THIS FORMULATION FOR COMMODITY AGREEMENTS IS BROAD ENOUGH TO INCLUDE URUGUAY'S INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING AN INTERNATIONAL MEAT MARKETING ARRANGEMENT.

D) CHANGES IN THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES' COMMERCIAL POLICIES, INCLUDING RESCENDING PROTECTIONIST MEASURES AFFECTING LDC'S.

E) AN INCREASE IN ASSISTANCE FOR THE POOREST NATIONS FINANCED BY THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES AND PETROLEUM EXPORTERS.

F) THE IMMEDIATE PROVISION OF EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR COUNTRIES MOST AFFECTED BY PRICE INCREASES FOR PETROLEUM AND RAW MATERIAL IMPORTS "UTILIZING DISTRIBUTION CRITERIA THAT TRULY REFLECT THE LOSSES SUFFERED."

G) APPROPRIATE INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS IN THE UN TO BETTER CONCENTRATE AND COORDINATE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY'S EFFORTS IN FAVOR OF "THE COUNTRIES MOST AFFECTED BY THE EMERGENCY, AS WELL AS THE POOREST."

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H) BLANCO'S MOST NOVEL RECOMMENDATION IS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A "FOURTH WINDOW" TO PROVIDE SPECIAL FINANCING TO LDC'S OF MEDIUM AND HIGH INCOMES. HE RECOGNIZED THAT THIS FINANCING COULD BE AT RELATIVELY HIGHER INTEREST RATES AND BE CHANNLED THROUGH EITHER THE WORLD BANK OR REGIONAL BANKS. COMMENT: WHAT BLANCO SEEMS TO HAVE IN MIND IS DEVELOPMENT FINANCING PROVIDED THROUGH THE IFI'S AT MARKET OR NEAR MARKET RATES, BUT ON LONGER TERMS THAN THE COMMERCIAL MARKET OFFERS. THUS, LDC'S IN THIS SPECIAL CATEGORY

COULD INDIRECTLY TAP DC CAPITAL MARKETS WITHOUT CALLING ON THE IFI'S OWN CAPITAL, WHICH WOULD BE INCREASINGLY DIRECTED TO THE POOREST.

5. COMMENT: BLANCO'S SPEECH DEMONSTRATED ONCE AGAIN THE COINCIDENCE BETWEEN GOU AND USG FOREIGN POLICY. HE EMPHASIZED URUGUAY'S REJECTION OF IDEOLOGICAL BLOCS IN THE U.N., A RECURRING THEME IN RECENT U.S. STATEMENTS, AND THE USE OF THE UN AS A PROPAGANDA FORUM. ALTHOUGH HIS COMMENTS ON DETENTE COULD BE INTERPRETED AS AN OBLIQUE CRITICISM OF THE SUPERPOWERS FOR HAVING ENSURED ONLY THEIR OWN PROTECTION WHILE SMALL NATIONS ARE STILL UNDER ATTACK BY THOSE PUSHING THE WORLD POWER STRUGGLE, BLANCO URGED ALL NATIONS TO SUPPORT DETENTE. HE WENT BEYOND DETENTE TO SUGGEST LINES OF ACTION FOR THE SMALLER POWERS, ALL COMPATIBLE WITH U.S. POLICY. ON THE ECONOMIC SIDE, TOO, BLANCO ENDORSED POLICIES COMPATIBLE WITH A RANGE OF U.S. OBJECTIVES. SPECIFICALLY ON TRADE POLICY, COMMODITY POLICY, FOOD POLICY, ASSISTANCE TO THE NEEDIEST, AND EXPORT STABILIZATION, HIS REMARKS SHOW A REMARKABLE COINCIDENCE WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PROPOSALS IN HIS SPEECH TO THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED (MVD-3208), THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH DREW THE CLOSE ATTENTION OF GOU LEADERS, AND THE RESULTS OF THIS ARE APPARENT IN BLANCO'S REMARKS.

6. GDS.
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